National Child Care Information Center
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FIVE STEPS TO CREATING A THEORY OF CHANGE LOGIC MODEL[1]

This tool will help you identify and specify key elements of a Theory of Change (TOC) Logic Model. A TOC Logic Model is a dynamic, multi-layered document that reflects a collaborative process among stakeholders. The document will be revised, refreshed, and re-evaluated continuously as your programs/initiatives evolve. But first, begin by using this tool to gather key stakeholder perspectives..

Step One: Long-Term Goal

- *Broadly speaking, what do you hope to accomplish? What needs do you intend to meet?*

Step Two: Rationale or *Theory of Change*

- *What assumptions are you basing your goals on? How and why do you believe your goals will be achieved?*

Step Three: Program Services

- *Begin by defining the programmatic focus—what primary programs/interventions will be put in place to achieve the outcomes?*
- *What activities will your program undertake and what resources will it use to accomplish its goals?*

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[1] This chart is adapted from *Planning for Success: Mapping Goals, Services, and Outcomes for Program Improvement*, *Birth to Five, Best Practices* Issue No. 2, produced by the Ounce of Prevention Fund. This resource is available on the Web at http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/publications/OPF_BT5_PlanningForSuccess.pdf.

Step Four: Identifying Short-Term and Intermediate Goals

- *What short-term goals do you expect to achieve— how will you know that the programmatic services are being implemented as expected?*
- *What goals do you expect to achieve in the near future—what are the first indicators you expect to see to determine if you are on the right path toward achieving your long term goals?*

Short Term Goals:

Intermediate Goals:

Step Five: Identifying Outcome Indicators

- *What measurements or indicators will you use to document short and intermediate goals?*
- *What data are currently collected and what data are needed?*

Next Step: Visualizing Change

- *Transfer the key information gathered here to the attached Logic Model diagram.*

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